
Subject: Re: Widget convulsions.

Posted by [thompson](#) on Fri, 09 Jun 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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ph2tjh@sunc.sheffield.ac.uk (Tim Hammond) writes:

> Hello,

> I'm currently working on a project which involves the creation of
> a lot of compound widgets which act as the graphical interface to
> a large suite of FORTRAN routines. I'm finding the widgets in IDL
> very easy to handle and have produced what I think are good
> results, but I do have one problem which I wonder if anyone else
> has encountered (and perhaps knows a solution to?).

> I find that when the value of a widget is updated using the
> widget_control...set_value=... type construction the whole
> compound widget seems to go through a convulsion as the
> widget disappears and then reappears with its new value. This is
> particularly noticeable when the compound widget is destroyed
> and in some cases the effect can last for quite a while before
> the widget disappears. The actual running of the program is
> not affected in any way, but it makes the finished interface
> look a lot less professional.

> Is there perhaps a way of avoiding this that I haven't yet come
> across?

> Technical note: I am running IDL 3.6.1(c) on a DEC alpha (the problem
> did not seem to be there for IDL 3.5.0 - perhaps because it ran
> faster?).

> Many thanks,

> Tim Hammond.

> -----

> hammond@solg2.bnsc.rl.ac.uk

I've also run into this behavior and complained to RSI about it. It appears to have been introduced with IDL v3.6. My workaround was simply to not call WIDGET_CONTROL so often, i.e. update the widget less frequently. It also appeared that updating label widgets was faster than updating text widgets, but maybe that's not always the case.

The problem appears to persist in IDL 4.0.

Bill Thompson
